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States  
Department of  
Agriculture  
Office of  
Public Affairs

# Selected Speeches and News Releases

August 2 - August 9, 1990

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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## USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Aug. 3, through midnight Thursday, Aug. 9.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988, 1989, and 1990 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80, 50.00 and 50.27 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1988, 1989 and 1990 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1990-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

This week represents the final week of the transition period from using current shipment prices to using forward shipment prices in determining the Northern Europe coarse count price. Since both current and forward shipment prices for the 3 lowest-priced growths of the growths quoted for coarse count cotton C.I.F. northern Europe were not available for a 6-week period preceding Aug. 1, the beginning of the new marketing year, and since daily coarse count cotton quotations for only one shipment period are available beginning Aug. 1, a 6-week transition period could not be completed.

Because the new marketing year did not begin on the first day of the 5-day period used in calculating this week's AWP, both current and forward northern Europe shipment prices for coarse count cotton were available for only the first 3 days of the period. For the last 2 days of the period, daily coarse count cotton quotations for only one shipment period were available. In calculating today's Northern Europe coarse count price, the following procedure was used:



- for each of the first 3 days of the period, the current shipment price was given twice the weight as the forward shipment price;
- for each of the last 2 days of the period, the average of the 3 lowest-priced growths of the growths quoted for coarse count cotton C.I.F. northern Europe was used;
- the Northern Europe coarse count price equals the 5-day average of the daily averages as determined above.

Based on data for the week ending Aug. 2, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price	
Northern Europe Price .....	82.21
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location .....	13.31
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton .....	2.15
Average U.S. location .....	0.35
Sum of Adjustments .....	-15.81
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE .....	66.40 cents/lb.
Coarse Count Adjustment	
Northern Europe Price .....	82.21
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price .....	-80.77
	1.44
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton .....	-4.10
	-2.66
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT .....	0 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, Aug. 9.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

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### SOVIET SCIENTIST HERE FOR ANTI-RAGWEED BUGS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2—Oleg Kovalev, an insect hunter from Leningrad, U.S.S.R., is obsessed with ragweed. He’s not allergic to the weed, although “some of my lab assistants are,” said the visiting entomologist from the Zoological Institute of the U.S.S.R.’s Academy of Sciences.

Hosted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Kovalev is completing a five-week, ten-state search for insects that dine on ragweed. The trip will end on August 7. The plant, native to North America, also chokes crops and irritates eyes and sinuses in the Soviet Union.

He's being accompanied at various stops by scientists from USDA's Agricultural Research Service and three universities. His last stop is at the agency's Beltsville, Md. Research Center.

Ragweed invaded the Soviet Union in the early 1900's. But Kovalev said it gained a bigger foothold during World War II, when soil over a vast area of the southern U.S.S.R. was churned up by fierce, costly battles in the winter of 1942-43. That's when the Red Army began at Stalingrad (now Volgograd) to repel Hitler's invasion, helping turn the war's tide.

Kovalev will take home promising ragweed-eating insects he finds here. Bugs that pass muster in his tests will be released in U.S.S.R. crop fields and pastures and, if they become established, could benefit farmers and people with allergies.

On July 30, Kovalev rejoined ARS entomologist Stephen D. Hight at Beltsville for a final round of field trips. Hight, based at the center's Insect Biocontrol Laboratory, earlier in the Russian's visit guided him on collecting trips in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Kovalev has crisscrossed the country, searching for anti-ragweed bugs in California, Arizona, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Florida and Georgia.

Kovalev previously visited the U.S. under informal cooperative arrangements. But his current bug hunt is the first by a Soviet scientist under five-year research agreements reached last year with ARS.

"American and Soviet scientists can now expand joint studies and explorations of natural pest controls," ARS administrator R. Dean Plowman said. "This will give both countries a wider choice of workable alternatives to chemical controls for plant diseases, weeds and insects."

The agreements, Plowman said, are with Kovalev's institute in Leningrad and the All-Union Institute for Biological Methods of Plant Protection, located in Kishinev, Moldavia. He said ARS explorers have already imported from the U.S.S.R. insects and micro-organisms to combat Russian wheat aphids—pests of U.S. wheat, barley and rye—and two range weeds, leafy spurge and knapweed.

Other natural pest enemies collected in the U.S.S.R.—some with Kovalev's help—are being tested at ARS laboratories in Behoust, France, and Rome, Italy, Plowman said.



North America has four principal ragweed species in the genus *Ambrosia*.

Today, Soviet plant quarantines prevent new invasions of the weed, which Kovalev said reduces yields of corn, alfalfa, potatoes, wheat, fruits and other crops. "Soil in infested areas," he said, "may hold up to 24,000 ragweed seeds per square meter" (a little over a square yard).

He has already had success at introducing a North American chrysomelid beetle known as *Zygogramma suturalis*. It eats ragweed leaves, and in tests in alfalfa fields it controlled the weed well enough to allow three cuttings of forage during the season. But machine-harvesting the alfalfa drives away the beetles, so he's keen on testing another leaf-eater, *Z. disrupta*, found last month, well as bugs to attack ragweed stems, flowers and seeds.

One flower-eating candidate is the tephritid fruit fly, *Euaresta bella* collected by Kovalev and Hight.

The chrysomelid beetle also is a relative of a "bad" bug, the Colorado potato beetle that attacks potato, tomato and eggplant. Before releasing the chrysomelid, Kovalev tested it to make sure it wouldn't attack crops. He also ran tests to ensure that the chrysomelid wouldn't attack Soviet sun-flowers, a ragweed cousin that is one of the few major crop plants native to North America.

Kovalev's insect-hunting guides, in addition to Hight of ARS, are:

Riverside, Calif.—Richard D. Goeden, entomologist, University of California.

Columbia, Mo.—James Tracy, technician, ARS Grassland Protection Research, Temple, Texas, and Benjamin Puttler, entomologist, Integrated Pest Management Unit, University of Missouri.

Gainesville, Fla.—Dale H. Habeck, entomologist, and Raghavan Charudattan, plant pathologist, University of Florida.

Jim De Quattro (301) 344-4296

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES PROCEDURES FOR TESTIFYING AT HEARINGS ON FEDERAL MILK ORDERS**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced procedures for the national hearing on federal milk marketing orders scheduled to begin Sept. 5, 6 and 7 at Eau Claire, Wis. and



continuing in Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 10-19; St. Cloud, Minn., Sept. 20; Syracuse, N.Y., Oct. 1-5; Tallahassee, Fla., Oct. 10-12; and Irving, Texas, Oct. 15 to the close of testimony.

Details are:

—To testify on the proposals announced in the July 17 Federal Register, an interested party—which may include dairy farmers or their cooperative association representatives, milk processors (handlers), consumers, state or federal agencies, or anyone else interested in the proceeding—simply appears at the hearing and signs up with the USDA administrative law judge in charge of the hearing.

—The administrative law judge conducting the hearing may question and cross-examine witnesses; receive evidence, admit or exclude evidence, hear oral arguments on facts or law; administer oaths and affirmations; take affidavits, and do what is necessary to maintain order at the hearing.

—The administrative law judge also may rule upon motions and requests; may change the time and place of a hearing, or adjourn a hearing from time to time or place to place; and, if necessary, limit the number of times a witness may testify to the same matter; and exclude evidence that is immaterial, unduly repetitious, or unreasonable.

—All testimony is recorded verbatim by a court reporter.

—All witnesses are sworn in and are subject to cross-examination.

—The judge sets the hearing agenda each day.

The administrative law judge conducting the national hearing will make every effort to accommodate witnesses who wish to testify, but who have very limited time to do so. Such persons should contact the judge, the honorable Paul N. Kane, USDA, Rm. 1055-S, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 447-8423, and explain their circumstances.

Procedures governing USDA administrative hearings on marketing orders are listed in “Rules of Practice and Procedure Governing Proceedings to Formulate Marketing Agreements and Marketing Orders” published in the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR Section 900.1-18). The document, and a copy of the July 17 Federal Register announcement of the full schedule for the hearings, may be obtained from the Dairy Division, Order Formulation Branch, USDA, AMS, Rm. 2971-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 447-6273.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## USDA LIFTS MEDFLY QUARANTINE FROM FLORIDA

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has lifted an agricultural quarantine regulating the sale and movement of produce in Dade County, Fla., following the eradication of Mediterranean fruit fly from the area.

“This quarantine was established to contain the spread of this extremely damaging foreign pest,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “Despite intensive trapping surveys, no Medflies have been found in Florida since May 21. We now feel confident that the pest has been eliminated and that this quarantine is no longer necessary.”

Twenty-three Mediterranean fruit flies were discovered in Dade County between April 16 and May 21. A cooperative program involving the Florida Department of Agriculture and APHIS eradicated the pest with a protein bait containing small doses of the insecticide malathion.

Medfly is one of the world’s most destructive agricultural pests, attacking 260 species of fruits, nuts and vegetables. Female Medflies lay their eggs inside ripening produce, where the maggots tunnel through the pulp, making it unmarketable and inedible. In countries where the pest is well established, losses of 25 to 50 percent in susceptible crops are not uncommon. If Medfly were to become established in the United States, economists estimate an annual loss of \$4.6 billion for the California and Florida citrus industries alone.

A similar quarantine for a Medfly infestation in California remains in place.

A notice of this action will be published in the Aug. 8 Federal Register. Public comments regarding the suspension of the quarantine restrictions will be considered if received on or before Oct. 1. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket number 90-144 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 866, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be inspected at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Anita K. Brown (301) 436-5931

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## **USDA SUSPENDS PROGRAMS TO IRAQ**

WASHINGTON, Aug 2—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has suspended all USDA-administered programs involving transactions with Iraq, R.E. Anderson Jr., administrator of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, announced today.

This decision will affect the operation of the Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM-102), the Export Enhancement Program and USDA market development programs including the Targeted Export Assistance program. The action is taken in light of the Executive Order issued today by President Bush and his directive to withhold any form of U.S. government assistance to Iraq.

Effective today and until further notice, USDA will not accept applications for credit guarantees under the GSM-102 program for sales of agricultural commodities to Iraq. In addition, USDA will not approve applications and issue credit guarantees for any sale of agricultural commodities which were not exported prior to Aug. 2, 1990. Exporters and financial institutions should be advised, however, that Commodity Credit Corporation export credit guarantees remain valid and in force for guaranteed export sales to Iraq where the transaction was completed prior to Aug. 2, 1990, and where such transaction does not violate any of the prohibitions set forth in the Executive Order.

Exporters that have outstanding shipments under either the GSM-102 or EEP program should immediately obtain a copy of Executive Order No. 12722 to determine its application to their particular situation. The Department of the Treasury is drafting implementing regulations.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES 1991 WHEAT PROGRAM ACREAGE REDUCTION PERCENTAGES**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced a tentative projection for the 1991 wheat acreage reduction program (ARP). Secretary Yeutter made the announcement to assist wheat farmers in planning for the coming year.

“I understand the difficulties wheat farmers face when they do not get clear signals from Washington on how much land will be idled. I will



focus as much light on it as possible in the absence of a farm bill," said Secretary Yeutter.

Announcement of the final 1991 wheat program cannot be made until the farm bill is completed. The House and Senate have just passed their versions of the farm bill, but further conference action is required before a farm bill becomes law.

"Given the two versions passed by Congress, maximum ARP requirements will likely be 10 to 20 percent. While these numbers are tentative, I want to give our farmers the most accurate estimates available," said Secretary Yeutter. He said that the numbers will be affected by loan rate provisions which are ultimately approved as part of the 1990 farm bill.

Secretary Yeutter also expressed concern that if loan rates are raised above current law it would bring a surge in production and result in massive surpluses. "Congress could repeat the disastrous policies of the 1981 Farm Bill. Those policies brought many American farmers to ruin and gave away our export markets to foreign producers," Secretary Yeutter warned. "We must make sure that the new farm bill avoids a return to the past and continues the progress farmers and America's agricultural sector made with the 1985 Farm Bill."

"I can give our wheat farmers this guarantee: We will use the export enhancement program to make sure American wheat is competitive in world markets. We have EEP initiatives in 41 countries. We have EEPs available in every wheat and flour market where our farmers face unfair competition from the European Community," remarked Secretary Yeutter. "And we will not hesitate to go head-to-head with the Europeans to keep and increase our export markets."

The unused balances on EEP initiatives total 11.8 million metric tons, or about 444 million bushels. Additionally, 5 flour initiatives covering 19 countries are available for 506,000 metric tons of flour, which is the equivalent of about 26 million bushels of wheat.

"USDA will continue to urge these customers to buy U.S. wheat and assist such sales through the EEP and export credit guarantee programs," Yeutter said.

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

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## **FIRE ANT SCENT IDENTIFIED, COULD LEAD TO NEW ANT-SPECIFIC KILLER BAITS**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3—"Come help us carry this chunk of food" is the signal transmitted by a fire ant chemical that has been identified in U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratories.

Chemist Robert K. Vander Meer of the Agricultural Research Service at Gainesville, Fla., said the fire ant-specific chemical could lead to lethal baits that attract only the nasty ants.

He reported in the latest issue of *Agricultural Research* that he identified the scent from lab-reared ants and will now reproduce it. He plans to combine it with insecticides or insect growth regulators to yield a toxic bait.

Two fire ant baits currently used—containing the chemical toxins hydramethylnon and fenoxycarb—lure insects with soybean oil. But some of the insects attracted to the baits are fire ants' greatest enemies, said Vander Meer.

The result: insects that control fire ants naturally are being killed, while eating some of the bait that should have gone to fire ants.

"Our goal is to develop baits that are more specific to fire ants," said entomologist Richard J. Patterson, who leads fire ant research at the Insects Affecting Man and Animals Research Laboratory in Gainesville.

Other scientists in Patterson's team have found that house fly and eye gnat pupae attract fire ants, which carry the pupae back to the ant nest as food. They hope to find practical ways to use the pupae in toxic baits.

The group screens new chemicals for fire ant control and supports industry in trying to expand the use permit for fenoxycarb to agricultural areas. Now it can only be used in urban and industrial areas.

Imported fire ants occupy 250 million acres in the southern third of the U.S. and wreak havoc in all facets of life. They sting people and animals, often causing painful blisters called pustules to form.

They damage citrus, soybeans, eggplant, corn, okra, strawberries, sorghum, potatoes, and pecans—either by feeding directly on plants or by protecting other insects that damage the crops.

"Fire ants will ferociously protect crop-damaging aphids and mealybugs from their enemies," Patterson says, because these insects secrete a fire ant favorite: honeydew.

Fire ants cause problems in the ornamental plant industry, as well. The fear of receiving ants in shrubs and sod imported from infested states has



caused increased inspections and threat of embargoes by some western states. Ants found on a single plant can cause a whole truckload to be rejected.

The ants are also becoming more and more of a problem in urban areas, Patterson said. He reported that they have been known to move up five stories in apartment buildings and invade people's apartments. They've gone looking for food in hospitals, and have even set up a whole colony under one apartment-dweller's carpet.

And they've taken up another obnoxious habit: destroying roads.

At Camp LeJeune, N.C., fire ants carried out bits of soil from under asphalt roads and formed intricate tunnels. They crawled underneath to keep warm in late fall and early spring. When traffic or a heavy truck came along: instant pothole. They caused 160 potholes, each costing North Carolina \$200 to fix.

And on Interstate 75 in Tampa, Fla., the ants entered naturally formed tunnels in silicone sealant joints and then burrowed upwards. The holes in the sealant had to be repaired at \$132 to \$302 per mile, and fire ants have to be controlled, at about \$90 per mile each year.

ARS scientist William A. Banks at the Gainesville lab helped officials in those and other states assess and control their fire ant road problems.

Jessica Morrison Silva (301) 344-3927

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## **USDA HIRES 37 HISPANIC SUMMER INTERNS**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3—Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration Adis M. Vila, said today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture hired 37 Hispanic students from member institutions of the Hispanic Association of Universities and Colleges (HACU) for intern positions this summer.

In June, Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter signed a Memorandum Of Understanding with HACU to ensure greater participation of Hispanic students in federal employment programs. HACU represents colleges and universities throughout the country with Hispanic student enrollment of 25 percent or more.

“These intern positions are providing the students with the opportunity to learn about federal employment in general, and more specifically, will allow them to learn about USDA's diverse mission and orient them on



how their individual career aspirations can be met through postgraduation employment with the department,” said Vila.

Vila said she is pleased that USDA was able to offer the students employment this summer. She is even more pleased that “interim progress reports from supervisors have been very favorable, and several have lauded the program as one that was long overdue.” Because of the internship program’s initial success, Vila said “USDA is anticipating a long and rewarding relationship with HACU member institutions that will lead to increased employment of Hispanics within USDA.” Plans are being made for expansion of the summer intern program next year.

Nancy Robinson (202) 475-4611

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## **PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR ALGERIA**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 125,000 metric tons of durum wheat for delivery to Algeria during the 1990-91 marketing year.

The marketing year for wheat began June 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

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## **USDA WITHDRAWS PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH FRESH PAPAYA STANDARDS**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today it will withdraw a proposal to establish U.S. standards for grades of fresh papayas.

USDA sought comments on the proposal, which originated in a sector of the papaya industry, in November and December 1989, and extended

the comment period to mid-January 1990. If implemented, the standards would have given a common trading language to an industry producing fruits of widely diverse sizes, grown in widely diverse places, and having a consumer constituency with as wide a set of preferences.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said USDA is withdrawing the proposal because comments received on it lacked consensus.

"Agreeing on a maturity standard heads the list of diversities in the responses," Haley said. "We found people in some papaya-eating cultures like the fruit very ripe, while those in others like it to be immature," he said.

"USDA is ready to work with the papaya industry at any time to consider new or modified proposals which might receive more general acceptance," Haley said.

AMS establishes grade standards and provides official grading for a wide variety of agricultural products. Use of USDA grading services is voluntary, i.e., industry-requested, and is paid for by the user.

A "Withdrawal Notice of Proposed Rule" will be published in the Aug. 7 Federal Register. Inquiries on this issue should be addressed to Michael J. Dietrich, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2061-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. telephone (202) 447-2011.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## **USDA CHANGES CALIFORNIA FRUIT FLY QUARANTINES**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is altering quarantine boundaries in four California counties due to Mediterranean and Oriental fruit flies, two serious foreign pests of fruit, vegetables and nuts.

"These quarantines are designed to protect American agriculture and the food supply by preventing the spread of foreign pests that are introduced into this country," said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "Once the pest has been eradicated and the agricultural threat removed, we lift the quarantine to relieve people of the regulatory restrictions."



Agricultural quarantines, which regulate the sale and movement of host plants of the targeted pest, are being removed from certain portions of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, where Mediterranean fruit flies have been eliminated.

No Mediterranean fruit flies have been found since Nov. 5, 1989, in the Sylmar area of Los Angeles county; since Jan. 10 in the Garden Grove area of Orange County; since April 12 in Riverside County; or since April 25 in the San Bernadino City area of San Bernadino County. Enough time has elapsed to give officials confidence that these areas are free of the pest and can be removed from the quarantine.

However, the discovery of Oriental fruit flies, a related species, has prompted officials to extend a quarantine for that pest in part of Los Angeles County.

Nine Oriental fruit flies were found between July 9 and July 12 in a section of Los Angeles County that includes Lynwood, South Gate, Downey, Paramont, Compton, Willowbrook and Watts. This area will be added to other sections of Los Angeles and Orange counties already under quarantine for Oriental fruit flies.

Mediterranean fruit flies are one of the world's most damaging agricultural pests, attacking over 250 species of fruits, vegetables and nuts. The citrus industries of California and Florida alone would lose an estimated \$4.6 billion annually if the pest were to become established in the United States. The related Oriental fruit fly is another serious pest, attacking many of the same plants that would be ravaged by Medfly.

This notice will be published in the Aug. 8 Federal Register. Comments regarding these actions will be accepted if they are received on or before Oct. 9. An original and three copies of written comments should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 866, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md., 20782. Comments referring to changes in the Mediterranean fruit fly quarantines should refer to docket number 90-151, while those in reference to the Oriental fruit fly should refer to docket number 90-149.

Comments may be inspected at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Anita K. Brown (301) 436-5931

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## **PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR JAPAN**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 211,328 metric tons of corn for delivery to Japan during the 1990-91 marketing year.

The marketing year for corn begins Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3 p.m. eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

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## **NAL SPONSORS WORKSHOPS ON AGRICULTURAL DATABASES**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library has released its fiscal year 1991 schedule of training courses for its master database, called AGRICOLA, and for its Current Research Information System, called CRIS.

AGRICOLA, which stands for AGRicultural OnLine Access, is a computer database containing bibliographic records of agricultural literature from throughout the world. Much of this literature is available at NAL. NAL is offering Basic (three days) and Advanced (one day) AGRICOLA workshops.

CRIS is USDA's computer-based documentation and reporting system for ongoing publicly supported agricultural and forestry research in the United States. The CRIS workshop lasts for one day and participants should have experience in online retrieval.

The workshops are free to USDA and state land-grant personnel and to employees of other federal, state and local government agencies. Other participants pay tuition of \$150 for three-day workshops and \$50 for one-day workshops.

Workshops are held at NAL, 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, Md. or at the D.C. Reference Center, USDA, South Building, 14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C.

More information on these workshops is available by contacting:  
 222—NAL Workshops, Educational Programs Unit, National Agricultural  
 Library, Room 111, 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, Md. 20705;  
 telephone: (301) 344-1204 for AGRICOLA or (301) 344-3850 for CRIS.

The training schedule follows:

Workshop	Dates	Location
AGRICOLA, Basic	Oct. 1-3, 1990	Washington, D.C.
CRIS	Oct. 4	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	Oct. 5	
AGRICOLA, Basic	Nov. 26-28	NAL, Beltsville
CRIS	Nov. 29	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	Nov. 30	
AGRICOLA, Basic	Jan. 28-30, 1991	NAL, Beltsville
CRIS	Jan. 31	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	Feb. 1	
AGRICOLA, Basic	Mar. 11-13	Washington, D.C.
CRIS	Mar. 14	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	Mar. 15	
AGRICOLA, Basic	April 8-10	Washington, D.C.
CRIS	April 11	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	April 12	
AGRICOLA, Basic	May 20-22	NAL, Beltsville
CRIS	May 23	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	May 24	
AGRICOLA, Basic	July 15-17	NAL, Beltsville
CRIS	July 18	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	July 19	
AGRICOLA, Basic	Sept. 16-18	Washington, D.C.
CRIS	Sept. 19	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	Sept. 20	

Brian Norris (301) 344-3778

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## USDA DECIDES FIVE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT COMPLIANCE CASES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture settled five cases during June to enforce the humane care and treatment of animals regulated under the Animal Welfare Act.

James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the cases resulted from earlier charges. Details are:

—Helen Lea of Pleasant Hill, Mo., was ordered by an administrative law judge to cease and desist from future violations of the Animal Welfare Act and, in particular, from operating without a federal license. Also, Lea was disqualified from applying for an animal dealer's license for two years. USDA alleged that on at least 20 occasions between Nov. 30, 1983, and Jan. 2, 1986, Lea sold dogs at the wholesale level without being licensed as a dealer.

—Lloyd A. Good, owner of Sugarloaf Lodge, located on Sugarloaf Key in Florida, had a \$2,500 civil penalty increased to \$10,000 following an appeal to the judicial officer. He was also ordered to abide by a cease-and-desist order against future violations of the Animal Welfare Act. The judicial officer assessed the penalty because Good continued to exhibit the dolphin, named Sugar, in a tidal pool that was not tested on a weekly basis for the presence of coliform bacteria as required. The evidence showed that, despite repeated notices of warning from USDA, Good repeatedly refused to test the water quality of the dolphin pool during the period between Aug. 1, 1985, and July 28, 1988.

—John D. Rodenberg of Lexington, Mo., was ordered by an administrative law judge to pay a \$1,000 civil penalty and cease and desist from future violations of the Animal Welfare Act and, in particular, from operating without a federal animal dealer's license. Also, Rodenberg's license was suspended for one year and thereafter until he demonstrates to USDA officials that he is in full compliance with standards of the act. USDA officials said that Rodenberg had applied for a license, but was not licensed until after the alleged violations occurred. Allegedly, during the period from January through May 1987, Rodenberg sold at least 60 dogs to a neighboring kennel without having the required license to sell the animals wholesale.

—Northwest Airlines, Inc., with offices at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, St. Paul, Minn., agreed to the issuance of a cease-



and-desist order and to pay a \$500 civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA allegations that it violated federal transportation standards for handling live animal shipments. The violation occurred on Aug. 29, 1987, when Northwest employees allegedly failed to exercise care in loading a travel cage containing a cat at Newark International airport, which resulted in the crushing and death of the animal. Terms of the settlement require Northwest to purchase a training film approved by USDA and, within one year, show it to all company employees who accept live animals for transport or handle them during shipment. The airline also agreed to notify USDA officials at least 10 days before each training session so that an APHIS representative may be present. At the conclusion of one year, Northwest will submit a written report certifying the date, location and number of employees who attended the training sessions.

—Barbara Vrana of Millville, N.J., entered into a consent decision to resolve USDA charges that she falsified her animal business records. The decision includes a cease-and-desist order, disqualification for 10 years from becoming licensed under the Animal Welfare Act and a \$1,500 civil penalty. USDA alleged that on at least six occasions, Vrana falsified her records by failing to record the correct number of dogs she purchased, acquired and otherwise disposed of during the period between March and September 1988.

In addition to the five cases resolved in June, nine new charges of violating the act were initiated, Glosser said. Four dealers, two exhibitors, two registered carriers and one research facility will have an opportunity to respond and request a hearing before an administrative law judge.

Standards for the care and treatment of certain animals have been required by the Animal Welfare Act since 1966. Animals protected by the law must be provided adequate housing, handling, sanitation, food, water, transportation, veterinary care and protection against extremes of weather and temperature. The law covers animals that are sold as pets at the wholesale level or are used for biomedical research or for exhibition purposes.

USDA enforces the act primarily through administrative prosecutions. Many of these cases are resolved through the consent decision provisions of the regulations. Under these provisions, USDA and the respondent named in the complaint agree to a stipulated order and penalties. If the case is not settled, there is a hearing before an administrative law judge

who issues a decision. Any party may appeal the administrative law judge's decision to a USDA judicial officer. The respondent may appeal an adverse decision by the judicial officer to the U.S. Court of Appeals. Failure to respond to the charges in the complaint results in the issuance of a default order assessing penalties.

Dealers, breeders, brokers, transportation companies, exhibitors and research facilities must be licensed or registered. USDA personnel make periodic, unannounced inspections to help assure compliance. Action is taken against violators after efforts to secure compliance are unsuccessful, Glosser said.

Questa Glenn (301) 436-7799

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## SOY PROTEIN EARNS HIGHER SCORES WITH NEW METHOD

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7—U.S. soybean products could find a broader market if United Nations' member countries adopt a new method that relies on human requirements to measure the nutritional quality of food proteins.

“Under the new method, soy protein would rate nearly as high as animal protein, and all soybean products would rank higher than under the current method,” said William H. Tallent of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service and Canada's Food Directorate proposed the new method and coordinated its international evaluation for the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization. An FAO committee is recommending that countries adopt the method, said Tallent, ARS assistant administrator for cooperative interactions.

“With the current method based on nutritional needs of rats rather than humans, soy protein ranks only about two-thirds as high as animal protein. The new method is simpler, cheaper and more meaningful because it's based on human needs,” said Tallent. He is U.S. delegate to the vegetable protein committee, part of the Codex Alimentarius Commission that sets food standards for the FAO.

U.S. firms have petitioned the Food and Drug Administration to adopt the new method, a composite of techniques developed by many scientists around the world.



Retired ARS food technologist Frank McDonough, who organized much of the international testing of the method's reliability, said it could bring about more equitable determination of the food value of vegetable protein, particularly U.S. soy protein products.

"Soy protein scores higher for nutritional quality under the new standard," McDonough said, "and the United States produces most of the soy protein in world markets." The products include soy protein concentrate, isolate, flour and textured proteins. Rapeseed protein scores comparably with soy protein under the new method.

Under the old method, called the protein efficiency ratio or PER, protein was rated according to how much weight rats gained after eating the protein for four weeks, said McDonough. But rats have a higher requirement than humans for certain amino acids, particularly those containing sulfur.

With the new method—called the protein digestibility-corrected amino acid score—the protein sample is chemically analyzed for amino acid content and compared with a reference standard based on requirements of 2-to 5-year- old children. The score is then adjusted according to how much protein is digested and absorbed by rats during a five-day feeding test.

"The new method takes five days instead of four weeks, and greatly improves accuracy," said McDonough. Scores for the same protein samples tested in several U.S. and foreign laboratories varied less than 10 percent compared with up to 40 percent under the PER.

McDonough said vegetable proteins that score low, such as certain legumes and cereals, could be turned into high quality foods by blending in other proteins that will supply missing amino acids. This would especially help developing countries whose citizens are short of protein in any form, he said.

At the ARS Energy and Protein Nutrition Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., McDonough filled in for the late C. E. Bodwell in completing work to get the new method sanctioned by the FAO's Codex committee. The scientists' Canadian counterpart for this task was Ghulam Sarwar of the Food Directorate in Ottawa.

Judy McBride (301) 344-4095

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 8.36 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 7.48 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 7.41 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.18 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$5.25 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$4.82 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$4.79 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Aug. 14 at 3 p.m. EDT, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

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## **THERMAL FABRIC PATENT ATTRACTS COMMERCIAL LICENSES HERE AND ABROAD**

Washington,—A small Iowa firm and one of Japan's largest companies have been licenced to develop products using a U.S. Department of Agriculture patented process that makes fabrics respond to changes in temperature.

NeutraTherm, Inc. of Des Moines and Mitsui & Company of Tokyo have received exclusive licenses for the process called polytherm, according to M. Ann Whitehead, coordinator of the national patent program for USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

“Temperature-adaptable textiles with built-in thermostats warm you when you're cold and cool you when you're hot,” said Tyrone L. Vigo, a chemist for the research agency. He and colleague Joseph S. Bruno invented the treatment at the Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans, where most of the ARS textile research is done.

NeutraTherm will develop ski clothing and other sportswear; Mitsui will “make products—mainly sportswear and biomedical—for sale and use only in Japan,” Whitehead said.

Under terms of the licensing agreement, she said, “Mitsui cannot export any ski sportswear or biomedical products made using the ARS-patented technology. It will provide complete feedback to us on any research findings.”

Vigo treated fabrics either with a class of chemicals called PEGs, short for polyethylene glycols, or with other compounds known as plastic crystals. In laboratory tests, the fabric absorbed and stored heat when the temperature rose and released it when the temperature dropped.

How much heat the treated material will store and release depends on the kind of material, the chemical applied, and the amount applied. “A 50-to 100-percent enhancement of heat absorption or release is probably a realistic goal,” Vigo said.

Companies in France, Italy and Australia have also applied for licenses to use the patented technology, Whitehead said. Several other U.S. companies are interested in licensing the technology for various uses—such as in carpets, footwear, automotive interiors and fabrics for agricultural applications, she added.

Hank Becker (301) 344-3547

Issued: August 8, 1990

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## **USDA REMOVES SOME PARTS OF CALIFORNIA FROM ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY QUARANTINE**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service today removed portions of Los Angeles and Orange Counties, Calif., from a quarantine for the Oriental fruit fly.

Amending the quarantined area lifts restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles in the Cerritos area. About 90 small entities in the quarantined area may be affected by this rule, including about 80 nurseries, one commercial grower of cucumbers and tomatoes, one commercial grower of Oriental persimmons, one community garden grower, five fruit markets, two farmers markets and one swap meet.



Insect surveys conducted by county, state and federal inspectors have detected no oriental fruit flies since Oct. 25, 1989, convincing officials that the Oriental fruit fly has been eradicated from the Cerritos area.

The Oriental fruit fly is a destructive pest of numerous vegetables, nuts, berries and fruits, especially citrus, and can cause complete loss of crops. Its short life cycle permits pest populations to reach outbreak levels rapidly.

Notice of the action will be published in the Aug. 8 Federal Register. Comments will be accepted if they are received on or before Oct. 9. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket no. 90-157 should be sent to Chief Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 866, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md., 20782. Comments may be inspected at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Alicia L. Ford (301) 436-7799

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## **USDA REQUESTS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON HACCP SYSTEM FOR MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is requesting public comments on the incorporation of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system into meat and poultry inspection operations. To be considered, comments must be received by Aug. 23.

“The HACCP system is a specialized method for identifying and preventing food safety hazards during the slaughter and processing of meat and poultry,” said Dr. Lester M. Crawford, administrator of USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service.

In January, FSIS initiated a two-year study to determine the optimal process for implementing HACCP in inspection operations. As part of that study, a series of five public hearings was recently completed. The request for comments is to give the public, industry, consumer and public interest groups, professional organizations and FSIS employees who were unable to participate in those hearings a chance to provide input on the following topics:



- Selection of specific products and processes as subjects for workshops to develop generic HACCP plans.
- Objectives and format of the workshops.
- Role of the FSIS Special Team—seven agency employees with strong backgrounds in all areas of inspection.
- Selection of volunteer pilot plants for in-plant testing of generic HACCP plans.
- Criteria for evaluating generic HACCP plans and the effectiveness of HACCP.
- Follow-up with interested parties during and after the two-year study.
- Reporting and disseminating the study's conclusions.
- HACCP training needs for both FSIS inspectors and industry personnel.

Comments should be mailed or hand delivered to: Catherine M. deRoever, Director, Executive Secretariat, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 3175 South Building, 14th St. and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

For more information about HACCP, contact Denise Clarke, Deputy Director, Information and Legislative Affairs, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 1148 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 447-7608.

Notice of the Request for Comments will be published Aug. 9 in the Federal Register.

Jim Greene (202) 382-0314

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## **MAINLAND AGRICULTURE THREATENED BY ILLEGAL MAILINGS FROM HAWAII**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—Fresh fruit and vegetables carrying fruit flies and other pests are being illegally mailed from Hawaii to the mainland where they seriously threaten U.S. agricultural crops. These findings are preliminary results of a joint U.S. Postal Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture parcel interdiction program which is revealing a disturbing flow of illegally shipped fresh produce.

“In the two months since the program began, we’ve identified 220 mailed packages containing more than 2,000 pounds of prohibited fresh fruit and vegetables,” said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator of USDA’s

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "Thus far, 12 packages were found to contain fruit with Oriental fruit fly larvae which, after maturing into adult flies, could threaten crops."

Search warrants for parcels believed to contain agricultural products are obtained from federal magistrates through the U.S. Attorney's Office in Honolulu.

Officials believe some of the packages were sent to friends and family on the mainland by Hawaiian visitors and residents unaware the contents were prohibited by law. Lee says the packages observed during the pilot project most often had California, Oregon and Washington destinations.

The threat of pests moving via the mail led to enactment of the 1989 Agricultural Quarantine Enforcement Act, which prohibits the shipping of any plant, fruit, vegetable or other matter quarantined by USDA under federal law. Violators may have their prohibited packages seized and are subject to fines and/or imprisonment.

All fresh fruits and vegetables require certification by USDA in order to be shipped to the mainland because they can contain larvae from several tropical fruit fly species, including the Mediterranean fruit fly or Medfly. These pests are especially damaging to citrus; heavy infestations can cause production losses of 25 to 50 percent.

According to Lee, U.S. taxpayers have spent more than \$200 million since 1976 in efforts to eradicate Medfly and Oriental fruit fly infestations in California and Florida. Although no Medflies have been identified among the pests intercepted so far, Lee says this might just be a matter of timing.

"Mangoes are a prime source of Medflies and, as we head into that harvest season in Hawaii's higher elevations, our Medfly concerns increase," he said.

"We appreciate the cooperation of the Postal Service in this important project," Lee added. "By working together, we believe we can close this avenue of entry for Medflies and other pests."

Marlene Stinson (301) 436-7799

Jim Reynolds (916) 551-3220

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## **OWNERS OF N.Y. MEAT FIRM FINED FOR BRIBERY**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—A federal court has fined Alfred Previti and Vincent Previti, owners of Maplecrest Hotel Supply, Inc., of New York, N.Y., (which also does business as Newman Meats Co., of New York, N.Y.) \$500 each and placed them on two years probation for bribing a federal food inspector.

Both owners were convicted in the U.S. District Court of Southern New York on one misdemeanor count each for supplementing the salary of a USDA food inspector, according to Dr. Lester M. Crawford, administrator of the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. FSIS is the agency responsible for the federal inspection of meat and poultry products.

The court action is based on the results of an investigation by USDA's Office of Inspector General, which was contacted by the food inspector at the time that the bribe was offered to him. During the investigation, the owners gave cash bribes totaling \$320 to the food inspector in an attempt to influence his inspection decisions.

Jim Greene (202) 382-0314

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF WHEAT HARDNESS TESTING**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service today announced the availability of tests for wheat hardness using near-infrared reflectance (NIR) spectroscopy.

FGIS is making the tests available on a field trial basis as part of the agency's continuing research into using NIR spectroscopy to determine grain quality.

"We are initiating this field study to further evaluate the NIR testing procedure," said FGIS Administrator John C. Foltz said. "Wheat hardness appears to be the best way to implement an objective wheat classification system, and we are hopeful that hardness testing will supplement or replace the current wheat classification system that distinguishes between hard and soft classes."

Foltz said the American Association of Cereal Chemists has approved the use of NIR methods as a procedure for evaluating wheat hardness.



Wheat hardness testing is available at the FGIS field offices in Destrehan, La.; Kansas City, Mo.; Omaha, Neb.; Pasadena, Texas; and Portland, Ore.

No fees are charged for the test, but the service may be limited to those tests that can be performed with current resources should the the number of requests exceed the capabilities of testing offices.

Individuals who desire to have wheat tested for hardness should contact their local FGIS field office or official inspection agency office for details.

Allen Atwood (202) 475-3367

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## GILLUM APPOINTED USDA DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced the appointment of Charles R. Gillum as USDA Deputy Inspector General.

“Charles Gillum has 20 years experience in the federal inspector general community. He has distinguished himself in both military and civilian posts and I look forward to having him on the USDA team,” said Yeutter. Since April 1987, Gillum has served as the inspector general of the Small Business Administration. Before that, he was the deputy inspector general at the General Services Administration (1981-1987). Gillum also held senior posts at the Federal Home Loan Bank Board (1980-1981) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (1969-1980). He served in the United States Air Force from 1961-1968 as a special agent in the Office of Special Investigations.

The inspector general conducts and supervises all audits and investigations relating to USDA programs and operations.

Gillum graduated from Arizona State College (B.A.S., 1960) and Arizona State University (M.A., Public Administration, 1961).

He is an Arizona native and presently resides in Alexandria, Va., with his wife and three children.

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

Chris Carpino (202) 447-8001

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**THIS WEEK’S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS  
UNCHANGED**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2—Producers may repay their 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation:

**Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound, 1989 crop Table**

White .....	40.0
Extra-light Amber .....	37.0
Light Amber .....	36.0
Amber .....	35.0
Nontable .....	33.0

The weekly repayment level for 1990-crop honey is 38.0 cents per pound for all colors, table and nontable grades.

Levels are unchanged from those announced last week.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 8:00 am-4:30 pm EST  
John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:30 pm-5:30 pm EST

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